REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification is amended by the present response to correct minor informalities. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-20 are pending in this application. Claims 2 and 11 are canceled by the present response without prejudice. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 7-8, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by U.S. patent 5,928,369 to Keyser et al. (herein "Keyser").

Addressing first the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

First, the basis for the outstanding rejection indicates the phrase "partial log creating device configured to create a plurality of partial logs from the inputted log" is not clearly described in the specification.

In response to that position applicants first note that language is clarified in the claims. Also, applicants draw attention to the original specification at page 8, lines 9-25. Applicants believe the specification clearly supports the currently recited claim language that a plurality of partial logs are created based on a plurality of input (operation) logs according to a condition and extraction rule for log comparison. Thus, the above-noted claim language is believed to be clear.

The claims were also rejected as the phrase "begin and end events in said partial log" was not clear from the specification.

With respect to that position, applicants note that the original specification at page 7, line 21 to page 8, line 8, clearly indicates such operations.

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The claims were further rejected as the phrase "a master log creating device configured to input a source program of said target program to create a master log by expanding the source program" (original emphasis) was not clearly described in the specification.

With respect to that position, applicants draw attention to the original specification at page 9, lines 8-12 and at page 16, lines 5-15. Those disclosures are believed to clearly support the noted claim language.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit each of the pending claims is in full compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 5 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, applicants first note the noted claim language in claim 5 is actually recited in claim 6, and claim 6 is amended to clarify the language therein. Further, claim 11 is canceled by the present response without prejudice and thus the rejection thereto is moot. Applicants also note claim 15 is similarly amended as in claim 6 to correct similar language.

In view of the foregoing comments applicants respectfully submit each of the claims is in full compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1, 7-8, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Keyser, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Each of the above-noted claims is amended by the present response to clarify language therein. Specifically, independent claim 1 now recites "a condition specifying device configured to specify a condition for log comparison, which includes beginning and end events in a partial log, and to specify an extraction rule for extracting at least part of the events sequence sandwiched between the begin and end events". The other independent claims recite similar limitations.

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According to the claimed features, normalized (partial) logs are used to calculate feature values representing the degree of feature of the occurrence or non-occurrence of events in the partial logs. Similarities between the partial logs are then calculated based on the feature values.

In contrast to the claimed features, Keyser does not provide any operation or disclosure directed to a calculation of similarities based on normalizing. Keyser discloses decoding a stack trace of decoded procedural call names such that a corresponding stack trace of decoded procedural call names is generated (see Keyser at column 12, lines 1-6). However, the decoded procedure of call names in Keyser does not correspond to the normalized partial logs as in the claimed invention.

Further, the system of Keyser calculates "the number of procedure calls", which must match and be in the same order before sufficient similarity is determined to exist between the electronically received stack trace and the reference stack trace. That value in Keyser clearly differs from the "feature values" recited in the claims.
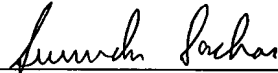
The claimed invention also differs from Keyser in that Keyser does not include a "condition specifying device", as now recited in the claims, to specify a condition for log comparison, and that includes beginning and end events in a partial log, and that specifies an extraction rule for extracting at least part of the event sequence sandwiched between the beginning and end events.

In such ways, each of the currently pending claims is believed to recite features neither taught nor suggested by Keyser.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the

present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested

that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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